



# 2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

## Program Focus —

The WRP provides benefits to both participating landowners and their neighbors. Landowners benefit from the easement payment and from the restored wetlands and uplands on their property. Neighbors benefit because the restored wetlands in their local area provide important functions and values such as attenuation of flood waters, groundwater recharge, filtration of water borne sediment, shoreline erosion control, and wildlife habitat.

While Michigan's WRP does not have specific "emphasis areas", it does have focus areas where WRP activity is very high due to intense landowner interest. These areas generally correspond to the areas where wetland loss ranges from 50 to 95 percent. Some of the "hot beds" for WRP include the Saginaw Bay watershed, the Maple River-Saginaw State Game Area corridor, the Portage River Watershed in Jackson County, and the Rudyard Clay Lake Plain in Eastern Chippewa County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Some of the wetland types that comprise a fairly high percentage of our total program acres include organic soil flats (peat & muck lands), mineral soil flats (emergent wetlands - cattail marshes) and Great Lake Coastal wetlands.



## Michigan Summary

### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) continues to grow in popularity with landowners. WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands and associated uplands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Over 80 new applications, with an estimated easement and restoration value greater than \$12.7 million, were received in fiscal year (FY) 2001. These applications were in addition to more than 100 applicants already on file. Michigan's unfunded application list stands at 162 pending offers, with an estimated value of \$24 million. One of the agency's primary goals for WRP is to provide landowners with an economically viable alternative to retire marginal cropland by enrolling these acres and restoring the wetlands and uplands through easements.

### Accomplishments

During FY2001 a total of \$5.0 million was obligated to secure easements and restore wetlands. Thirty Michigan landowners enrolled 19 permanent easements, four 30-year easements, and seven restoration cost-share agreements. A total of 2,500 acres were enrolled in the WRP. In addition, over 5,500 acres of wetland and associated upland was restored, including nearly 2,500 acres of emergent fresh water wetland, 200 acres of riparian wetland habitat, 200 upland acres planted to grasses and forbes, and over 100 acres of shallow water wildlife habitat (push-outs).

### Program Benefits

**LANDOWNER BENEFITS-** WRP provides up to 100 percent cost-share for restoring converted wetlands and provides payment in exchange for permanent or long-term easements. Restoration cost-share agreements are also available with a cost-share rate of 75 percent.

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS-** The program allows some economic use of restored wetlands, including hunting and fishing, grazing or haying during prescribed times, and selective timber harvesting.

**PUBLIC BENEFITS-** Restored wetlands provide important functions such as attenuation of flood waters, groundwater recharge, filtration of water-borne sediment, shoreline erosion control, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities.

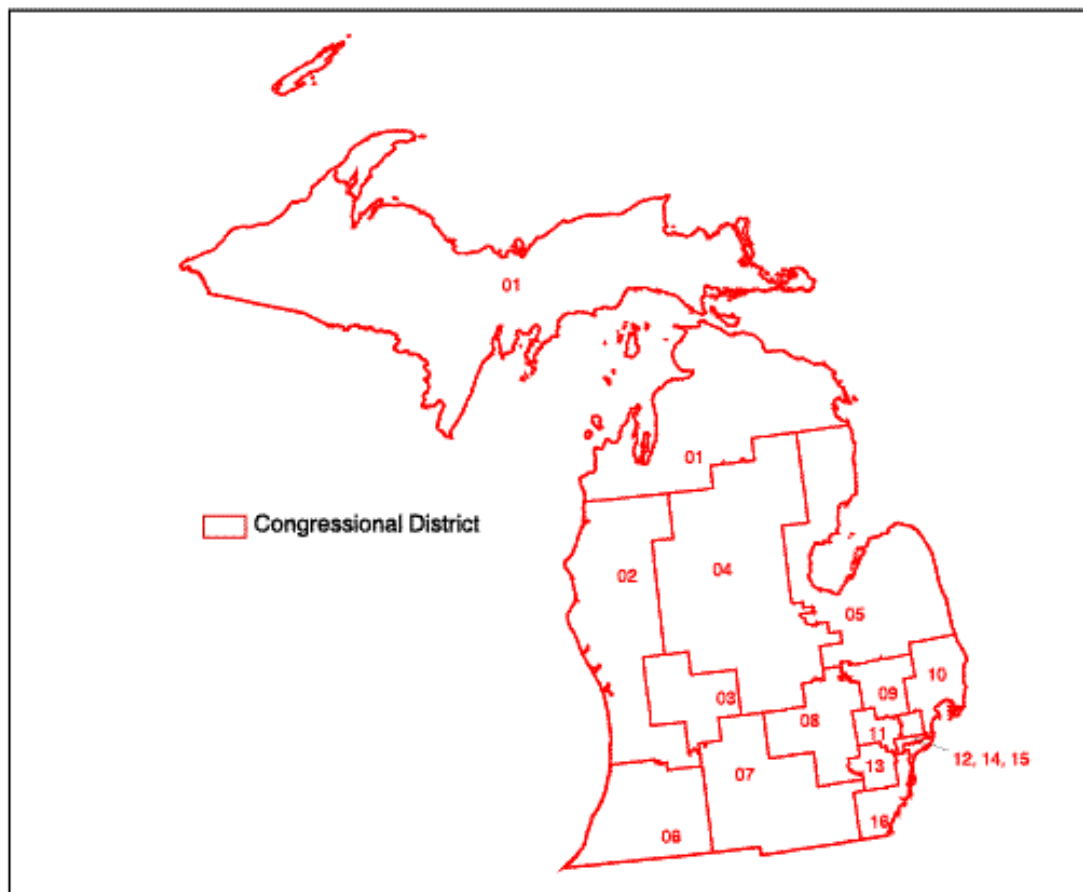
**FISH AND WILDLIFE BENEFITS-** Restored wetlands and associated upland acres provide important habitat for hundreds of species of fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and plants, some of which are endangered. In Michigan nearly 50 percent of our endangered species are supported by wetlands.

### State contact

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Photograph of WRP Project in Cheboygan County

## Michigan Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



## Michigan Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$1,468,547	13	\$6,904,868	58
District 2	\$1,010,767	5	\$3,138,140	28
District 3	\$0	0	\$440,193	6
District 4	\$321,755	5	\$3,659,934	53
District 5	\$225,091	2	\$3,376,029	20
District 6	\$0	0	\$50,611	2
District 7	1,960,873	4	\$3,353,324	30
District 8	<u>\$12,967</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>\$465,356</u>	<u>7</u>
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$21,388,455</b>	<b>204</b>

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